

JOB OFFER

The Royal Observatory of Belgium is looking for a scientist for the Near-Earth Asteroid characterization in the context of planetary defense activities



A scientific position is available for the characterization of Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA) as part of the ongoing planetary defense mission activities of the European Space Agency (ESA). The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) is actively involved in the ESA planetary defense missions. The Hera mission, set to launch in October 2024, aims to investigate the Didymos binary asteroid, including the first assessment of its internal properties, and to measure the detailed outcome of NASA's DART mission kinetic impactor test. The Ramesses mission focuses on characterizing the Apophis asteroid before, during, and after its closest approach to Earth in April 2029. The Satis mission is an ambitious 12Units-CubeSat mission concept designed for planetary defense activities in early 2030s. Its primary scientific objectives are to determine the inner structure of NEAs, estimate their regolith strength and cohesion, and establish their long-term orbital trajectories.

The candidate will support ongoing ROB activities within the context of planetary defense missions, contribute to achieving science and mission goals through simulation and analysis, and assist in operations, including both space and ground segments.

This position is initially for one year, with the possibility of extension. We are seeking enthusiastic and motivated candidate with a doctorate in science or engineering. We offer a competitive salary according to the federal government academic staff salary scale SW11, flexible working conditions, and additional benefits. The successful candidate will be recruited in activity Group 1 (scientific research).

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The candidate shall have a Ph.D. in Science or Engineering, but the candidates who are at the end of their doctorate and who will get their diploma in a reasonable timing (less than 3 months from the application deadline) may also apply.

Applications are considered from candidates that possess several of the following characteristics:

- strong interest in the field of NEA
- strong interest in the field of space missions
- experience/knowledge in simulations in particular in NEA dynamics, NEA surface/subsurface characterization
- experience/knowledge in data analysis and exploitations
- experience/knowledge in science operations, ground and space segments
- scientific curiosity,
- creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach,
- ability to work both collaboratively in a team and independently
- capability to work in English.

HOW TO APPLY

Send a full CV (including grades), a motivation letter, and two or three reference names by 15 August 2024 to o.karatekin@oma.be, at ROB. The beginning of employment will be on October 1st, 2024 or later.